



## MEETING MINUTES / 17 SEPTEMBER 2019

### ATTENDANCE:

Present: Showell, Stewart, Baldwin, Bradley, Farley, Johnson, Lardizzzone, Lopez, Magner, McMullen, Sarg, Seppala (telephone) **85.7%**

Excused: Newman, Newstadt

Unexcused:

Guests: Ginny Yelland (Wilmington VAMC), Terry Hollinger (Delaware Veterans Home), Beth Tarrant (Veterans Stand Down), Jack Tillman (Veterans Justice Outreach), Patrick Moonan (Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1105), Mike Tuckman (Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1105), John Richter (Sussex Vet Center), Dave Skocik (Veterans Coalition)

### CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS:

Commented on the excellent Mental Health Summit attendance and thanked the commissioners for their participation

Be on the lookout for multiple POW/MIA chair unveilings, especially at Delaware Tech campuses

Moment of silence for service members

### MEETING MINUTES:

For the August minutes, Commissioner Johnson asked that the KWVA \$20K donation be corrected to have been from chapter 1 and not chapter 2

- August minutes were motioned by Johnson and Sarg

The July minutes could not be voted on during the August meeting (lack of a quorum)

- July minutes were motioned by Lardizzzone and Johnson

### ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS:

#### **Wilmington VAMC – Virginia Yelland, Executive to the Director**

Discussed the VA's involvement in the Mental Health Summit and the summit's overall success

- Over 350 participants

- Delaware's summit is the largest out of the surrounding states

I Am Not Invisible Photography Project was on campus

- Brings recognition and awareness of women veterans

- VA Secretary uses a professional photographer to take photos and 32 women veterans had photos taken

Looking forward to supporting the upcoming Veterans Stand Down

1 Oct: The campus will begin being smoke-free following a national mandate

2 Oct: Resource Fair in the auditorium

Dover clinic planning is progressing

(Baldwin) Are there any updates on My Healthy Vet? The appointments don't show up on the screen

Will have to research to program

Any cancellations, within 21 days, can be offered to other patients via text messaging

- This action fills employ slots

**Delaware Veterans Home (DVH) – Terry Hollinger, Director:**

73 residents

Denise Elliott, Chief Nurse, has officially retired, Archie Poling is the replacement

Anticipated grand opening for renovated dining room is 25 November

Blue unit's bathrooms are close to completion

There are two proposed drawings for the dental suite and we are awaiting a third

VA survey results were released, there were two fire safety write-ups

- Issues have already been corrected

- No patient related deficiencies or write-ups

(Sarg) Were or are there penalties for construction delays?

There were some for the dining room

(Sarg) Have you considered group mental health sessions for posttraumatic stress residents?

Looking to expand mental health services via TeleHealth but not via group

**Home of the Brave, Director Jessica Finan:**

Not present

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Beth Tarrant, Veterans Stand Down

All are invited, not just homeless veterans, to attend

Breakfast is from 0730 – 0845

Ceremony begins at 0900, emceed by Frank Vavala

Lunch begins at 1130, for veterans and 1200, for volunteers

Closeout begins at 1345 and the event ends at 1400

(Farley) The VA will have a mental health team on site

(Lopez) This year's focus will be on suicide prevention

Veterans program at Dover Elks, 10 Nov / 1600

Dave Skocik, Veterans Coalition

MG Berry is the keynote speaker for the trust fund dinner

- Requests continued support for the dinner to raise funds

11 Nov / 1400 Vietnam Veterans of America Veterans Day Service, Kent County Park

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Bear Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Magner:**

Interments – 70 (-3)

**Millsboro Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Bradley:**

Interments – 23 (-4)

**Health and Human Services, Commissioner Sarg:**

Discussed veteran related legislation from the 2019 General Assembly

- Provided accompanying handout

**Legislative Affairs, Commissioner McMullen:**

Requested having legislative inputs for next meeting

(Sarg) Would like the email addresses of the veterans affairs committees

(Stewart) Asked if the salaries could be influenced for the Delaware Veterans Home employees

(Kirby) Explained the employees now receive bonuses and how salaries are controlled by the state

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:**

DVTF Previous Month: Applications 7; Granted 3 (42.8%); Awarded \$5,419.00; Balance - \$153,258.00

**ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS:**

Commissioner McMullen (Air Force Sergeants Association - AFSA)

Chapter Information:

An active Facebook page is up and running

Delegates attended the International Professional Airmen's Conference in San Antonio (24 – 29 August)

12 Sep: Membership meeting

13 – 14 Sep: Manned information table during Dover Air Force Base Air Show

15 – 21 Sep: POW/MIA week activities

- 20 Sep recognition day with 5K walk/run, luncheon, and retreat ceremony

6 – 12 Oct: AFSA Legislative week

16 Oct: Boscov's 25% off shopping pass can be purchased from members in the store for \$5.00

11 Sep: Attended AMC Museum memorial service

12 Sep: Attended Chapter 291 (Maryland) meeting

Vacant (American Legion - AL)

Nothing to report

Commissioner Bradley (American Veterans - AmVets)

19 – 24 Aug: Attended AmVets National Convention, Louisville, KY

- Jan Brown elected national commander (first woman)

- Post auxiliary presented \$1,000.00 check toward Arizona Memorial dock restoration

24 Sep: Post 2 is hosting a member's pig roast

27 Sep: Post 2 is hosting a golf tournament, Mulligans Point, Georgetown

Thanks for Valerie Camarillo, VA Outreach for presenting during the post's August meeting

Commissioner Lardizzone (Disabled American Veterans - DAV)

1 Sep: Attended funeral for DAV past department commander, Ronnie Revels

7 Sep: Attended American Legion Post 28 and Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 850 presentation of \$10,000.00 check from DAV for service dog

10 Sep: Attended Military Honor and Patriots Day Celebration

Commissioner Johnson (Korean War Veterans Association - KWVA)

Chapter 1 met in September

11 Sep: Attended 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at CHEER Center

11 Sep: Attended American Legion Post 28 candle lighting ceremony

Chapter 2 continues to fundraise each week

Commissioner Farley (Marine Corps League - MCL)

2019 Toys for Tots campaign is underway, toys will be distributed on 20 and 21 December

Updated on Mayor's Veteran Crisis Awareness Challenge

Provided September veterans homelessness status report

Commissioner Sarg (Military Officers Association of America - MOAA)

23 Aug: Manned DCVA table at Noble's Pond Senior Spree

23 Aug: Attended Denise Elliot's (Delaware Veterans Home) retirement dinner, presented a DCVA coin

27 Aug: Attended Military Retiree Fraud and Scams presentation  
9 Sep: Attended Brain Injury Trust Fund and Council meetings  
10 Sep: Attended Veterans Mental Health Summit  
10 Sep: Attended Delaware Employment First Oversight Commission meeting  
11 Sep: Attended Mayor's Veterans Crisis Challenge meeting  
12 Sep: Attended Gold Star Mother's run across America event  
17 Sep: Attended Economic Development Conference

Commissioner Magner (Military Order of the Purple Heart - MOPH)  
Two chapters are on summer break and will return in September

Commissioner Newman (Veterans of Foreign Wars - VFW)  
Nothing to report

Commissioner Baldwin (Vietnam Veterans of America – VVA)  
Updated on Delaware Veterans resource center, close to route 13 and 40 split  
- Three buildings admin, training, and apartment  
Laurel school district board has approved charter request for a military school  
- Projected as an U.S. Army school  
Updated on Friends of Delaware Veterans trust fund endowment  
Updated on General Services Administration's supplies and equipment for nonprofit agencies

Commissioner Showell (At Large, affiliated with Delaware National Guard)  
MaryAnne Doughy, Biden Center is seeking ways to support veterans' initiatives  
- Asked commissioners to share ideas

Commissioner Newstadt (At Large, affiliated with Jewish War Veterans)  
Nothing to report

Commissioner Seppala (At Large, affiliated with Military Order of World Wars)  
7 Sep: Attended Cooch's bridge Revolutionary War memorial ceremony  
7 Sep: Attended MOWW chapter picnic

Commissioner Lopez (At Large, affiliated with Delaware Veterans)  
21 Aug: Attended SPLAN training for DCVA staff  
22 Aug: Attended Veteran Stand Down meeting as registration lead  
28 Aug: Attended Mayor's Veterans Crisis Challenge meeting  
29 Aug: Attended Veterans Stand Down meeting as registration lead  
4 Sep: DelVets Post 2 re-started membership meetings, focused on bylaws  
5 Sep: Attended Veterans Stand Down meeting as registration lead  
9 Sep: Conducted registration training for stand down volunteers  
10 Sep: Attended Veterans Mental Health Summit  
12 Sep: Participated in National Invisible Female Photo Project at the Wilmington VA  
12 Sep: Attended Veterans Stand Down meeting as registration lead  
14 Sep: Attended DelVets Post 2 Annual Crab Feast, proceeds went towards benevolence and veterans in need of funding  
16 Sep: Conducted registration training for stand down volunteers  
17 Sep: Provided interview with Good Day Delmarva, WBOC, discussing the Veterans Stand Down  
26 Sep: Encouraging veterans to sign up for Veterans Consortium for Military Discharge Upgrades, Wilmington VA TCM Management, 1st Floor  
- POC Miguel Marcos (302) 994-2511, ext 4763  
1 Oct: Wilmington VA Veterans Resource Fair on campus

Commissioner Stewart (At Large, affiliated with student veterans associations)  
Nothing to report

**TERM COMPLETION:**

**EVENTS:**

20 Sep / 0930 – 1400: Veterans Stand Down, Schutte Park, Dover  
28 Sep / 0800 – 1230: Vet Fest, Middletown  
1 Oct / 0800 – 1230: Veterans Resource Fair, Wilmington VA  
17 Oct / 0830: DJF Meeting, Adams Service Center, Georgetown  
26 Oct / 0800: Dover AFB Retiree Day  
11 Nov / 1030: Bridge Ceremony, New Castle

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Confirmed Commissioner Magner as new Bear Cemetery advisor  
Request for Commissioners to submit their organizational legislative concerns

**ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION:**

None

**CLOSED SESSION:**

None

**SPECIAL SESSION:**

Patrick Moonan, Sussex VVA  
Discussed ways of expanding veterans resources through service officers and service organizations

**NEXT MEETING:**

**Tuesday, 15 October 2019 at 1000**

**LOCATION:**

**Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs**